



HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Information Technology Center

Bruce High
Executive Director & CIO

October 28, 2014

Dear Harris County Department/Contract Radio System Users:

Harris County Radio Services, which owns and manages Texas Wide Area Radio Network (TxWARN) System infrastructure, is updating our notice that Digital Radios compliant with Project 25 (P25) rules need to be moving towards migration.

With financial assistance from Federal Grants, the new P25 Radio System is in place and available for use. The migration to the new system has begun. The migration will take place over the next year and our collective goal is to be complete of all Harris County agencies migration by September of 2015.

It is important to understand the P25 requirements are FCC requirements and do not have their origin in decisions of Harris County or any of our partners.

There is a very important future date to remember: **December 2015**

In December 2015, the legacy Harris County owned analog 4.1 system sites will go off the air. Any radio using this analog system will no longer work after next December. There are two reasons for this. First, it is not P25 compliant, and second, the analog product will no longer be supported by the manufacturer.

December 2016 was also milestone date until last week. The previous FCC mandate was requiring all P25 700 MHz radios to be narrow banded, or TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access) by end of 2016. TDMA allows radio spectrum to be cut into smaller pieces allowing more talk paths over a given piece of spectrum. The FCC eliminated that rule on October 24, 2014.

However, for any new radio or talkgroup activated under Harris County's system, the minimum requirements for purchasing radios are that they must be TDMA compliant and have radio Authentication. Note that upgrading after initial purchase typically costs more than at the initial point of purchase. Harris County will need the spectrum efficiency that TDMA brings, so we will continue to mandate the TDMA feature going forward.

Our Radio Network Operation Center is here to help and assist any or all agencies with the transition or to answer questions. Please feel free to contact Harris County Radio Services at 713-274-8800 or 877-8TXWARN so we can assist you with your needs. Our web site is <http://www.harriscountytexas.gov/itc/trsradio/default.aspx>

Thank you,

Craig Bernard
Director of Radio Services